

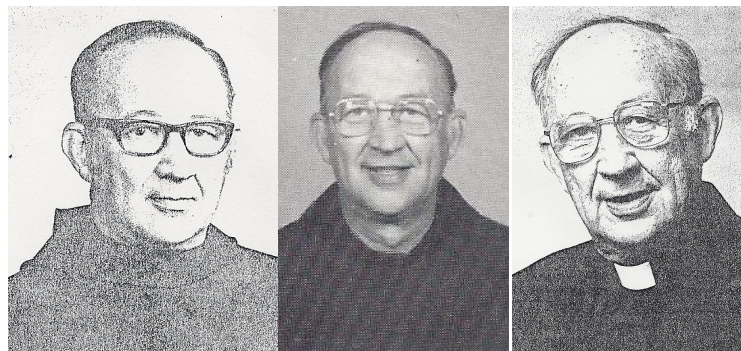
GERMAIN BELEN

December 11

Born: March 19, 1921, Lansing, Michigan

Died: December 11, 2004, New Albany, Indiana

Pronounced: bel lon



Daniel Joseph was born on March 19, 1921, in Lansing, Michigan, to Louis M. and Amelia (Ott) Belen. He had a younger sister who later became Sister Mary Janice Belen, a Sister of Mercy.

Daniel attended Holy Cross Grade School and was graduated from St Mary's High School in 1939. After graduation he worked as a typist for one year while going to Lansing Community College for Accounting. September 1940 Dan began his studies for the priesthood at Mount Saint Francis Seminary and College. On August 1, 1943, Dan entered St Anthony Novitiate, receiving the habit and the religious name of Friar Germain. He professed his simple vows on August 1, 1944, at Angola, Indiana, and solemn vows on August 1, 1948, Rensselaer, New York. Germain was ordained to the priesthood on June 3, 1950, at the Cathedral, Albany New York, by Archbishop Edmund Gibbons.

Most of Germain's religious life was in parish ministry. He was an associate pastor in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Indiana, New Mexico and Nebraska. As pastor he served in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Georgia.

Father Germain was favored by the Lord with many good gifts and talents. He was very hospitable; was always willing to share a good joke or humorous anecdote. He was a man of few but powerful words, he had good insight, was courteous, coached sports, enjoyed being with his brother Friars and friends and had a deep respect for others. He loved the people of God and a special reverence for his Franciscan Priesthood. He served as the Province treasurer while in Indianapolis, Indiana and Lansing, Michigan. At the age of seventy-five he was even asked to be Pastor in Georgia, which he willingly accepted. He had a special love for golf and was patient in time of trials.

His last years were difficult. His health began to fail and he spent several years in nursing homes. In the midst of his suffering, his blood sister, Sr. Mary Janice Belen, stood by him. Her faith and kindness was a great support to him. As his health deteriorated Germain was brought to Mount Saint Francis and then on to Mercy Providence Nursing Home, New Albany, Indiana. A member of our Franciscan family for sixty years, Father Germain died at Floyd Memorial Hospital, New Albany, Indiana, on December 11, 2004, at the age of eighty-three.

May he and all our departed brothers, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

## ASSIGNMENTS

- 1950 Assistant Pastor, St Anthony Church, Louisville, KY
- 1953 Assistant Pastor, St Stephen Church, Milwaukee, WI
- 1955 Assistant Pastor, Holy Trinity Church, Milwaukee, WI
- 1959 Assistant Pastor, St Joseph the Worker Church, Gary, IN
- 1961 Assistant Pastor, St Edward Church, Carlsbad, NM
- 1967 Assistant Pastor, St Joseph Church, Broken Bow, NB
- 1969 Pastor, St Benedict Church, Terre Haute, IN
- 1976 Assistant Pastor, St Anthony, Lorain, OH
- 1978 Assistant Pastor, St Simon, Indianapolis, IN)
- 1982 Pastor, Holy Cross, Lansing, MI
- 1991 Chaplain Nursing Home(at Diamondale, MI), Lansing, MI
- 1994 In residence, St Stephen Friary, Hinesville, GA
- 1996 Interim Pastor, St William Church, St Simon Island, GA
- 2000 In residence, Holy Cross Friary, Lansing, MI
- 2003 In residence, Mt. St. Francis, Mt St Francis, IN
- 2003 In residence, Mercy Providence Nursing Home, New Albany, IN

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## BRIEF VERSION

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